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mystery one should study the metaphysics of the general subject of flight and familiarize himself with its voluminous literature. For so onerous a task I have had insufficient time and possibly not much real inclination. Being thus handicapped I should perhaps have abstained altogether from theorizing. But the temptation was irresistible and if, by yielding to it, I have originated nothing of value there will at least have been little if any harm done — save, perchance, to my scientific reputation.

TWENTY-NINTH STATED MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

THE Twenty-ninth Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union convened in Philadelphia, Pa., Monday evening, November 13, 1911. The business meeting was held in the Council Room, and the public sessions, commencing Tuesday, November 14, and lasting three days, were held in the lecture hall of the Academy of Natural Sciences.

BUSINESS SESSION.— The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Edward W. Nelson. Eighteen Fellows were present. The Secretary's report gave the membership of the Union at the opening of the present Stated Meeting as 887, constituted as follows: Fellows, 48; Honorary Fellows, 11; Corresponding Fellows, 60; Members, 78; Associates, 690.

During the year the Union lost sixty-six members, eight by death, twenty-four by resignation, and thirty-four for nonpayment of dues. The deceased members include one Fellow, one Honorary Fellow, two Corresponding Fellows, two Members, and two Associates, as follows:

Henry Augustus Purdie,¹ a Fellow, and one of the Founders of the Union, who died in Boston, March 29, 1911, in his 71st year.

Dr. Adolf Bernhard Meyer,² an Honorary Fellow, who died in Berlin, Germany, February 5, 1911, at the age of 71 years;

¹ For an obituary notice, see Auk, XXVIII, p. 387; also Memorial Address in the present number.

² For an obituary notice, see Auk, XXVIII, p. 519.

Capt. George E. Shelley,¹ a Corresponding Fellow, who died November 29, 1910, in London, England, at the age of 70 years; Dr. Gustav Edler von Hayek,² a Corresponding Fellow, who died in Vienna, January 9, 1911, in the 76th year of his age; Dr. Charles Otis Whitman,³ a Member, who died in Chicago, Ill., December 6, 1910, at the age of 68; Manly Hardy,⁴ a Member, who died in Brewer, Maine, December 9, 1910, in his 79th year; and the following Associates: Francis Wm. Rawle, of Bryn Mawr, Pa., who died June 12, 1911, and William Roth Wister, of Philadelphia, Pa.

The report of the Treasurer showed the finances of the Union to be in a satisfactory condition.

Frank M. Chapman was elected President; A. K. Fisher and Henry W. Henshaw, Vice-Presidents; John H. Sage, Secretary; Jonathan Dwight, Jr., Treasurer; Ruthven Deane, William Dutcher, F. A. Lucas, Chas. W. Richmond, Thos. S. Roberts, Witmer Stone, and Wilfred H. Osgood, members of the Council.

Drs. Alphonse Dubois, Brussels, Belgium; C. E. Hellmayr, Munich, Germany; Hermann von Ihering, São Paulo, Brazil; Herman Schalow, Berlin, Germany, and W. P. Pycraft, London, England, were elected Honorary Fellows; Gregory M. Mathews, London, England; Dudley Le Souëf, Melbourne, Australia; John Lewis Bonhote, Hempstead, England, and John G. Millais, Hordsham, England, were elected Corresponding Fellows, and the following eighty persons were elected Associates, namely:

Adams, Benjamin, New York City.
Aldrich, Frank W., Bloomington, Ill.
Alexander, Miss Annie M., Piedmont, Calif.
Anthony, Harold E., New York City.
Babcock, Dean, Estes Park, Colo.
Baker, John Hopkinson, Cambridge, Mass.
Ball, Dr. J. P., Frankford, Pa.
Banks, Miss Martha Burr, Westport, Conn.
Batten, George, Montclair, N. J.
Bignell, Mrs. Effie, New Brunswick, N. J.

¹ For an obituary notice, see Auk, XXVIII, pp. 387-388.

² For an obituary notice, see Auk, XXVIII, p. 388.

³ For an obituary notice, see Auk, XXVIII, p. 149.

⁴ For an obituary notice, see Auk, XXVIII, pp. 149-150.

Booth, Sherman M., Glencoe, Ill.
Borland, Wm. G., New York City.
Brown, Philip Greely, Portland, Me.
Browning, Wm. Hull, New York City.
Bubier, Geo. M., Lynn, Mass.
Burr, Freeman Foster, East Haven, Conn.
Chapman, Roy, Minneapolis, Minn.
Cheesman, Morton R., Salt Lake City, Utah.
Clay, Charles Irvin, Eureka, Calif.
Craig, Leon T., Mars Hill, Me.
Cushman, Mrs. John M., Jamestown, N. Y.
Dickey, Donald R., Dubuque, Iowa.
Duryee, Miss Anna B., Newark, N. J.
Dwight, Dr. E. W., Boston, Mass.
Dyer, Edward Tiffany, Southampton, N. Y.
Ekblaw, Walter Elmer, Urbana, Ill.
Francis, Geo. A., Bridgeport, Conn.
Fügüet, Dallett, Upper Montclair, N. J.
Gianini, Chas. Alfred, Poland, Herkimer Co., N. Y.
Gordon, Harry Edgar, Rochester, N. Y.
Greene, Miss Mary Amory, Croton-on-Hudson, N. Y.
Gutsell, James S., Ithaca, N. Y.
Hallett, Geo. Hervey, Jr., Lansdowne, Pa.
Harris, Harry, Kansas City, Mo.
Hartman, Corpl. P. J., Honolulu, Hawaii.
Hersey, F. Seymour, Taunton, Mass.
Holt, Ernest Golsan, Barachias, Ala.
Hudson, Mrs. Katharine West, Cambridge, Mass.
Johnston, J. W., Rochester, N. Y.
Kendall, H. F., M. S., Virginia, Minn.
Kilburn, Frank M., Ithaca, N. Y.
Lambert, Dr. A. E., Middlebury, Vt.
Linton, Miss Ida L., Roxbury, Mass.
Mills, Dr. Herbert R., Jacksonville, Fla.
Mitchell, Catharine Adams, Riverside, Ill.
Moore, Henry D., Haddonfield, N. J.
More, R. L., Vernon, Texas.
Morley, S. G., Boulder, Colo.
Morris, Sidney V., Bristol, Pa.
Paladin, Arthur, Albany, N. Y.
Parsons, Robert L., So. Orange, N. J.
Pepper, William, M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.
Pierrepoint, John J., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Post, William Stone, Bernardsville, N. J.
Rathborne, Richard Charles, Newark, N. J.
Robbins, Royal Elisha, Brookline, Mass.

Robertson, Howard, Los Angeles, Calif.
 Roper, Kenyon, Steubenville, Ohio.
 St. John, Prof. Edward Porter, Hartford, Conn.
 Sanborn, Colin Campbell, Highland Park, Ill.
 Schroeder, Arthur, Montclair, N. J.
 Sheldon, Charles, New York City.
 Shelton, Alfred, Petaluma, Calif.
 Small, Harold Wesley, Bethel, Me.
 Smith, Austin Paul, Brownsville, Texas.
 Spelman, Henry M., Cambridge, Mass.
 Stockbridge, Chas. A., Fort Wayne, Ind.
 Stone, William Dudley, Fayetteville, Ark.
 Strobe, William S., M. D., Lewistown, Ill.
 Taylor, B. F., Columbia, S. C.
 Taylor, Walter Penn, Berkeley, Calif.
 Tylor, J. E., Washington, D. C.
 Victor, Edward W., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Weed, Benjamin, San Francisco, Calif.
 Welles, Charles S., Elwyn, Pa.
 White, Wilson Carlisle, Chester, S. C.
 Whitney, Byam, Cambridge, Mass.
 Williston, Mrs. Samuel, Belmont, Mass.
 Young, Miss Harriet Tible, Hinsdale, Ill.
 Young, John Paul, Youngstown, Ohio.

Drs. Allen, Dwight, Merriam and Richmond and Messrs. Brewster, Ridgway and Stone were re-appointed 'Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of North American Birds.'

Dr. A. K. Fisher, E. W. Nelson and Dr. Chas. W. Richmond were appointed 'Committee on Bird Protection.'

PUBLIC SESSIONS. *First Day*.—The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Chapman. An address of welcome was made by Dr. S. G. Dixon, on behalf of the Academy of Natural Sciences.

The papers read during the morning session were as follows:

'In Memoriam — Henry A. Purdie,' by William Brewster.

'The Validity of the Red-legged subspecies of Black Duck,' by Dr. Chas. W. Townsend.

'Description of a New Ptarmigan from the Aleutian Islands,' by Arthur C. Bent.

'The Status of the Blue-eared Jay (*Aphelocoma cyanotis*) in Texas,' by Harry C. Oberholser.

'The Relation of Genera to Faunal Areas,' by Dr. Spencer Trotter.

'New Light on the Name of the Traill Flycatcher,' by Harry C. Oberholser.

'Field Notes on "recognition marks" in certain species of Birds,' by John Treadwell Nichols. Remarks followed by Dr. C. W. Townsend, Messrs. Osgood, Fuertes, McAtee, and the author.

'Birds in the Markets of Southern Europe,' by Dr. Louis B. Bishop. Remarks followed by Messrs. Osgood, McAtee, Wm. Palmer, and Gronberger, Drs. Trotter and Townsend, Rev. Wm. R. Lord, and the author.

The first paper of the afternoon was:

'A Scheme to increase Insectivorous Birds,' by Rev. Wm. R. Lord.

The remaining papers, all illustrated by lantern slides, were:

'Recent Field Studies of some Ecuador Hummingbirds,' by S. N. Rhoads.

'An Automatic English Sparrow Trap,' by Chas. W. Miller.

'Exhibition of Lantern Slides and Moving Pictures of Birds,' by Clinton G. Abbott.

In the evening an informal reception was given the members of the Union by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. L. Baily at their home in Ardmore, Pa.

Second Day.—The meeting was called to order by the President.

The papers of the morning session were:

'Some Notes on the Egg-laying Habits of the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*),' by Chas. W. Miller. Remarks followed by Messrs. Bowdish, Bent and Bailey, Rev. H. K. Job, and the author.

'Some Nesting Habits of the Least Sandpiper,' by Robert Thomas Moore. Illustrated by lantern slides.

'Report of the "American Bird Banding Association," by W. W. Grant.

'Autochromes of Land Birds and Sea Birds,' by Dr. Frank Overton and Francis Harper. Illustrated by lantern slides.

'Results of a Brief Visit to the Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea,' by Arthur C. Bent. Illustrated by lantern slides.

The following papers were presented at the afternoon session:

'Bird Notes from Pisgah Forest, N. C.,' by Harry C. Oberholser.

Illustrated by lantern slides. Remarks followed by Messrs. Brewster, Rhoads, and Forbush.

'Certain Asiatic Birds,' by C. William Beebe. Illustrated by lantern slides.

'Notes on the Flight of Gulls,' by William Brewster.

'An Ornithological Reconnaissance in Colombia,' by Frank M. Chapman. Illustrated by lantern slides.

'Call Notes of Tropical American Birds,' audibly illustrated, by Louis Agassiz Fuertes.

In the evening the visiting members of the Union were invited to a Smoker at the Academy, tendered by members of the Ornithological Section.

Third Day.—The meeting was called to order by the President.

The papers of the morning were:

'Flight Maneuvers of the Gannet and Kittiwake,' by Robert Thomas Moore. Illustrated by lantern slides.

'A Trip to the Magdalens,' by Wm. L. Baily. Illustrated by lantern slides.

'Bird Life on the Paramo of Mount Pichincha, Ecuador,' by S. N. Rhoads.

'The Propagation of Bob-white,' by Herbert K. Job. Illustrated by lantern slides. Remarks followed by Messrs. Fuertes, Pearson, Baily, Palmer, Rhoads, and Bowdish; Drs. Field and Fisher, and the author.

'The Classification of Kingfishers, with Particular Reference to the Genus *Ceryle*,' by W. De Witt Miller.

The papers of the afternoon (the closing) session, all illustrated by lantern slides, were:

'Bird Photography from Staten Island; in New York City; Gardiner's Island, N. Y., and Certain Virginia Coast Islands,' by Howard H. Cleaves.

'Bird Life in the Arizona Desert,' by Wm. L. Finley.

'Notes on the Birds of the Panama Canal Zone,' by Edward A. Goldman.

'Some Birds of the Orinoco Delta, Venezuela,' by Stewardson Borwn.

'The Hooting of the Blue Grouse,' by Vernon Bailey.

The following papers were read by title:

'The Gulls of Four Brothers Island,' by B. S. Bowdish.

'A Last Word on the Passenger Pigeon,' by Prof. C. F. Hodge.

'Possible Cause of the Extinction of the Labrador Duck,' by E. H. Forbush.

'Do Birds change their Routes of Migration?', by E. H. Forbush.

'Notes on the Laysan Finch,' by Prof. Hubert Lyman Clark.

'Last Days of the Wild Pigeon in Sullivan County, Pa.,' by Herman Behr.

'The Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus dominicus*) on the Coast of South Carolina,' by Arthur T. Wayne.

'Vagaries in Nesting of the House Wren,' by Wilbur F. Smith.

Resolutions were adopted thanking the Academy of Natural Sciences for the use of a hall for a place of meeting for the Union, and for other courtesies extended; to the Local Committee and other Philadelphia ornithologists for the cordial welcome and most generous hospitality shown visiting members and friends of the Union; to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. L. Baily for their kindness in entertaining the members of the Union at their home in Ardmore, Pa., and to the Zoölogical Society of Philadelphia for its kind invitation to visit the Gardens of the Society.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted by the Council, November 13, 1911.

RESOLVED: That in regretfully accepting the resignation of Dr. J. A. Allen as Editor of 'The Auk,' on account of impaired health, the Council of the American Ornithologists' Union desires to express its high appreciation of the long and faithful service rendered by him. Taken in connection with his prior editorship of the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club,' the predecessor and virtually the first series of 'The Auk,' Dr. Allen has served for a period of thirty-six years, a term of continuous editorial service rarely equalled in ornithological annals. It is not too much to say that the high position 'The Auk' has attained among the leading ornithological journals of the world is very largely due to the wise, able, and conscientious manner in which his editorial duties have been performed.

RESOLVED: That the Council of the American Ornithologists' Union desires to place on record its great regret that illness should prevent the attendance at this meeting of Mr. William Dutcher, long a member of the Council. He is very much missed and

tenderly remembered, and the hope is expressed that his health will soon be restored.

Mr. Witmer Stone was elected to succeed Dr. Allen as Editor of 'The Auk.'

The next meeting of the Union will be held in Cambridge, Mass., the date to be determined later.

JNO. H. SAGE,
Secretary.

GENERAL NOTES.

The Laughing Gull at Marshfield, Massachusetts.— On May 30, 1911, while making a trip along the "South Shore," I observed at Marshfield a single Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) sitting on the water a little distance out. The black head and the solid black outer primaries showed up very conspicuously, making identification sure. Also it was noticeably smaller than the Herring Gulls which were near it. This is, I believe, a new record, not only for Marshfield, but also for Plymouth County, of the Laughing Gull, as I have not been able to find any previous date.

Again, on July 29, 1911, while Mr. J. Archibald Hagar, Mr. H. D. Mitchell, and I were sitting on the cliff at the mouth of the North River, we saw four black-headed gulls fly up into the mouth of the river. We watched them for some time and identified them plainly as Laughing Gulls.

The next day (the 30th), we three, accompanied by Mr. J. C. Hagar, in a boat on the South River, near the mouth, saw a pair of these same gulls on the flats, so near that we could see the white eye-ring and the reddish bill. They were very handsome birds and seemed to be much smaller than the Herring Gulls which were around them.

It is to be hoped, and these records may possibly indicate that the Laughing Gull is extending its range a little farther northward in Massachusetts.— HAROLD L. BARRETT, *Jamaica Plain, Mass.*

Franklin's Gull (*Larus franklini*) at Philadelphia.— Mr. Philip Laurent recently submitted to me for identification a gull recently presented to him by Mr. Charles Liebeck who had shot it October 22, 1911, on the Philadelphia "neck," the open swampy ground lying below the built up portion of the city, above the juncture of the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers. The bird was in immature (juvenal) plumage, largely ashy gray, with a gray tail and black terminal band, almost a counterpart of the Laughing Gull (*L. atricilla*) in similar plumage except for the smaller